

HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES PROGRAM

The overall objectives of the U.S. assistance program in Romania are to support:
economic freedom and growth;
democratic attitudes and institutions;
and
improvements in Romanian quality of life.

Activity Title: ChildNet Partnership Program
Implementation Timeframe: July 2001 - July 2006

Objective: To advance the reform of the Romanian child welfare system.

Description: ChildNet supports the Romanian Government in working to close large residential centers for children, while encouraging civil society to find community-based, family-focused alternatives for at-risk children and families. Organizations and child welfare professionals receive training, technical assistance, and sub-grants so that they can reduce the dependence on and use of state-run institutions, working toward the vision of a world where every child grows up in a family setting and enters adulthood as a fully-integrated member of society.

Implementing Partner: World Learning
Website: www.worldlearning.org/childnet

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Activity Title: Support for Changing Attitudes
Implementation Timeframe: August 2004 – July 2007

Objective: To implement a strong Special Olympics program in Romania.

Description: The program targets children and adults with learning disabilities who live in natural or foster families, group homes, or institutions, focusing on their integration into mainstream society. By July, 2007, 15,000 athletes throughout Romania, along with thousands of volunteers (including students and professionals) and family members, will have participated in sports events, family support networks, athlete leadership training, etc. This will be done in close collaboration with NGOs and public institutions working with children and adults with intellectual disabilities.

Implementing Partner: Special Olympics Inc. through Special Olympics Romania Foundation
Website: <http://www.specialolympics.org> and <http://www.specialolympics.ro>

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Activity Title: National Child Welfare Monitoring System
Implementation Timeframe: May 2003 – November 2005

Objective: To create a national database to track children in the public child welfare system.

Description: The National Child Welfare Monitoring System will: provide child welfare professionals with access to up-to-date, reliable data; facilitate financial and management planning; and help uphold the standards for services in the day-to-day activities of county-level Directions for Social Assistance and Child Protection. The end product will be a national database with information on each individual child that has entered the public child welfare system, available services and staff, financial information, and monitoring information. The system will provide a foundation for future information needs, with support from the Government of Romania, International Financial Institutions, bilateral donors, etc.

Implementing Partner: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Website: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov>

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Activity Title: Romanian Family Health Initiative (RFHI)
Implementation Timeframe: September 2001 - September 2006

Objective: To increase access to and use of quality reproductive health services at primary health care level

Description: RFHI works with the Ministry of Health to promote institutional and policy reform in key areas. Its goal is to integrate reproductive health into the existing structure at the primary care level. To accomplish this, RFHI experts provide technical, managerial and capacity-building support to key Romanian partner organizations. Community participation in all issues related to reproductive health is encouraged through a solid partnership with all levels of civil society in Romania. All these activities are carried out through an entirely consultative and participatory process with the Ministry of Health, National Health Insurance House, other Ministries, and USAID. The final goal is to have 40% of primary health care providers (at least 60% of whom are in rural areas) offering basic reproductive health services. RFHI emphasizes support to poor urban women and to Roma women living in rural areas.

Due to the extensive health effects of the 2005 flooding, some flood relief projects are also being implemented through the Romanian Family Health Initiative. For more information on USAID/Romania's flood relief projects, visit
http://www.usaid.gov/locations/europe_eurasia/countries/ro/

Implementing Partner: John Snow, Inc. Research and Training Institute
For more details, please visit <http://www.jsi.com>

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Activity Title: Private Health Insurance Initiative (PHII)

Implementation Timeframe: September 2004 – December 2005

Objective: To assist Romanian institutions in the development of secondary legislation for the private health insurance law

Description: A viable and healthy private health insurance market requires an appropriate legal foundation. To create such a foundation, PHII experts: review the private health insurance framework to suggest options for secondary legislation; review quality standards and consumer protection in the private medical sector and suggest legal and regulatory reforms; facilitate forums at which stakeholders can review private health insurance legislation; and provide technical assistance for the development of regulations and enforcement capacity.

Implementing Partner: Partners for Health Reform Plus

Website: <http://www.phrplus.org>

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Activity Title: Strengthening Community Programs Addressing HIV/AIDS and Family Violence in Romania

Implementation Timeframe: April 2005 - April 2008

Objective: Raising awareness of and changing Romanians' attitudes about HIV/AIDS and family violence, in order to promote responsible preventive behavior, combat discrimination, and support the social inclusion of those affected.

Description: USAID/Romania, the Romanian Orthodox Church, International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC), and the Ministry of Education have become allies to support community activities for the prevention of HIV/AIDS and family violence, as well as to support the social integration of people affected by HIV. Program activities include: developing and testing messages about the prevention of HIV/AIDS and family violence and about combating discrimination toward those affected; training a cadre of Romanian Orthodox Church representatives and teachers to disseminate these messages in their parish communities and in schools; organizing youth clubs for extracurricular school activities to empower students with knowledge about HIV/AIDS and family violence, as well as fostering a sense of acceptance for those affected; and developing community outreach and service pilot projects with local NGOs in the area of family violence and HIV/AIDS.

Implementing Partner: International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) in partnership with the Romanian Orthodox Church

Website: http://www.iocc.org/countries_romania.shtml

updated October 24, 2005